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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 14, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 9 totaled an estimated 16.0 billion ton-miles, 9.0 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. The sharp decline was primarily attributable to the impact of the United Mine Workers' strike.

Cumulative volume for the first 19 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 332.0 billion ton-miles, 1.6 percent lower than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 9 totaled 383,051 cars, 13.7 percent below 1980, and 3.3 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 25.6 percent in the East, 11.0 percent in the South, and 6.9 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 12 of the 21 commodity groups were down. Coal loadings were off 55,058 cars, or 47.4 percent. Eighteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended May 2 totaled 32,044 cars, down 2.6 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 61,825 trailers and/or containers, up 3.2 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 18 weeks of the year was 573,343 cars, 4.5 percent lower than last year, and 1,044,939 trailers and/or containers, down 4.1 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/9/81:

	Loadings in Week ended May 9, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	21,316	D	4,246	16.6	D	2,003	8.6
Other farm products	4,196	D	576	12.1	I	228	5.8
Metallic ores	31,585	D	3,080	8.9	D	868	2.7
Coal	61,093	D	55,058	47.4	D	151	0.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,496	D	1,170	7.5	D	284	1.9
Nonmetallic minerals	14,459	D	1,362	8.6	D	508	3.4
Grain mill products	14,522	D	1,181	7.5	D	30	0.2
Food and kindred products	15,884	D	1,597	9.1	D	699	4.2
Primary forest products	19,281	D	1,027	5.1	D	174	0.9
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,769	I	835	10.5	D	1,438	14.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	19,821	D	455	2.2	D	941	4.5
Chemicals and allied products	28,154	I	1,193	4.4	D	635	2.2
Petroleum products	5,315	D	321	5.7	I	312	6.2
Stone, clay and glass products	14,759	D	1,371	8.5	D	489	1.9
Coke	7,309	I	2,260	44.8	I	329	4.7
Metals and products	16,977	I	1,022	6.4	D	2,393	12.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	19,557	I	3,613	22.7	D	849	4.2
Waste and scrap materials	13,457	I	1,028	8.3	D	379	2.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,596	I	169	1.6	D	470	4.3
All other carloads	41,312	I	604	1.5	D	1,522	3.6
LCL traffic	193	I	22	12.9	D	14	6.8
Total Cars Loaded	383,051	D	60,698	13.7	D	12,978	3.3
Corresponding week of 1980	443,749						

	1981	1980		% Change
Total Cars Loaded (19 weeks)	7,929,565	8,410,745	D	5.7
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
18 Weeks cumulative	315.9	319.7	D	1.2
Week ended May 9	16.0	17.6	D	9.0
19 Weeks cumulative	332.0	337.3	D	1.6

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